



Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

Gretna, LA

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5101)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower States, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. Since 1995, EPA has funded more than 200 Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilots, at up to \$200,000 each, to support creative two-year explorations and demonstrations of brownfields solutions. The Pilots are intended to provide EPA, States, Tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

EPA has selected the City of Gretna for a Brownfields Pilot. Approximately 17,200 people live in Gretna, located on the Mississippi River outside of New Orleans. With 29.9% of residents living below the poverty level and an unemployment rate of 11.2%, the State of Louisiana designated Gretna as an Enterprise Zone.

After an analysis of windshield surveys and citizen complaints, the City decided to target at least five brownfields sites in the Gretna Riverfront Industrial Corridor, a 21.7-acre area located on the north side of Gretna, stretching four miles along the Mississippi River. The Industrial Corridor is located adjacent to the City's historic district and downtown area. Houses and small businesses are interspersed with rail lines and port, shipping, and industrial facilities.

The former site of Malter International, a tract of open space, a vacant lot, an abandoned warehouse, and a warehouse annex are among the properties targeted by the Pilot. The 5.6-acre Malter International site is adjacent to a Registered National Historical District, but it also presents the most apparent environmental hazard and is close to the City's poorest minority residents.

PILOT SNAPSHOT



Gretna, Louisiana

Date of Announcement:
July 1998

Amount: \$200,000

Profile: The Pilot targets brownfields in the 21.7-acre Riverfront Industrial Corridor on the City's north side, along a four-mile stretch of the Mississippi River.

Contacts:

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Visit the EPA Region 6 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/earth1r6/6sf/bfpages/sfbfhome.htm>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

In 1992, EPA conducted limited cleanup at the Malter site to reduce the risk of fires and from hazardous materials spills. Uncertainty about remaining contamination at the site has hindered redevelopment. The Pilot plans to complete an environmental assessment of that property and the others to determine the extent of the contamination, estimate cleanup costs, and determine possible reuses for the sites.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

OBJECTIVES

The City's objective is to design a new blueprint for neighborhood revitalization, one that relies on collaboration among citizens, businesses, and government representatives. Gretna will use the Pilot to jump-start its brownfields revitalization efforts. The City plans to leverage the Pilot's efforts into a self-sustaining program that is able to systematically clean up and redevelop brownfields throughout the Industrial Corridor. The Pilot will rely on citizen involvement to identify other brownfields, prioritize them, and plan their cleanup and redevelopment.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Convening a brownfields consortium comprised of citizens, government representatives, lenders, developers, and economic development leaders to share information on the City's brownfields sites, select priority sites, and develop specific cleanup and reuse options;
- Conducting two rounds of targeted community meetings to share information on the City's brownfields sites and obtain feedback from citizens and neighborhood residents;
- Analyzing existing data on the Malter International site and conducting an environmental assessment on that property;
- Gathering sampling data on the other priority sites; and
- Developing plans to clean up these other sites as well.